Oak Knoll, Dawes
2nd Mo 11 1879

My dear Jamison

26 I wanted very much to attend the meeting in remembrance of our friend Jacob Thompson, but my health has confined me in doors the greater part of the winter. Does thee know anything of his last days? - Was he made as comfortable as possible; and did he

retain his fine faculties
through his declining? How
many of our old friends
and comrades have
hoped on! — Thus I
& have been mercifully
spared to see the end
of slavery. God grant
we may live to see
the freedmen's rights
respected, & their child-
-ren educated. At
present there is much
to discourage us, even
in conversing with colored
people from the South
I am persuaded that

than Confederation, is, on the whole, improving. They are getting hold of small landed properties, and in the rivalship of politics, their votes are sought for, & they can make their power felt & respected. The great, almost fatal mistake was in the too early restoration of State sovereignty to the revolted region. The Constitution gave the General Govt. but little power to set matters right in the States, and, unhappily, party leaders are too much interested, in their own personal matters, to risk anything, for by using what little power

is left in their hands.

I wish I could see them oftener. I remember with pleasure they visited last year, & wish it could be repeated.

God bless thee, dear Gamfar! Believe me always & affectionately thy old friend.

John G Whittier

A.1.2 v.40 p.78(a)